

Subject:

FW: Email outreach to congressional staff

Good afternoon, XXXX.

I hope you are doing well and having a good week!

I'm reaching out to you on behalf of our client, the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, which our firm represents. As you know last week the House passed with overwhelming bipartisan support H.R. 4695 – "Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act". These sanctions measures against Turkey were in response to its military invasion of northern Syria and attacks against the Kurds.

Earlier in October a coalition of Arab states issued statements of their own condemning the Turkish invasion during an emergency meeting of the Arab Foreign Ministers at the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo calling the Turkish offensive a direct threat to stability and peace in the region. Dr. Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, expressed the UAE's utmost condemnation of Turkish aggression in Syria as unacceptable.

Notably absent from this nearly unanimous condemnation was the state of Qatar who instead, "defended its close ally Turkey's controversial operation against Kurdish forces in northern Syria on Tuesday, saying Ankara had acted against an 'imminent threat,'" AFP. On Tuesday, November 5th Qatar's Foreign Ministry announced that it was doubling down on its support for Turkey amidst scrutiny from Congress. "Regional allies Qatar and Turkey plan to scale up their cooperation into a 'comprehensive strategic partnership,'" Reuters.

This is not the first time Qatar has defended Turkey to help the nation avoid consequences from U.S. policymakers. In August 2018 after Treasury Department announced sanctions against Turkey, Qatar stepped in to undermine the newly initiated US sanctions, "Qatar has pledged \$15 billion worth of investment in Turkey in a bid to curb the impact of new U.S. sanctions." Newsweek.

I hope this information is helpful as you and your boss continue to monitor the developments in northern Syria and Congress considers potential additional legislative measures against Turkey and those that support its actions.

All the best,
Matt

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Qatar defends Turkey's northern Syria operation

afp.com 15/10/2019



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Turkish-backed Syrian rebels and Turkish soldiers watch as smoke billows from the border town of Ras al-Ain on Oct. 12, as Turkey and its allies continued their assault on Kurdish-held border towns in northeastern Syria.

Qatar defended its close ally Turkey's controversial operation against Kurdish forces in northern Syria on Tuesday, saying Ankara had acted against an "imminent threat".

Turkey has helped Qatar weather the effects of a two-year regional economic embargo led by Riyadh over claims of support for Iran and Islamist extremism, denied by Doha.

But Ankara has faced widespread condemnation for its deadly incursion, with the US imposing sanctions on prominent Turkish leaders while France and Germany have halted arms sales.

"We can't put all the blame on Turkey," Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani said at a Global Security Forum meeting in Doha, adding that Ankara had been forced to respond to an "imminent threat for Turkish security".



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© AP Photo/Emrah Gurel A Turkish forces tank is driven to its new position after was transported by truck, on a road towards the border with Syria in Sanliurfa province, Turkey, on Monday, Oct. 14, 2019

Turkey wants to create a roughly 30-kilometre (20-mile) buffer zone along its border to keep Kurdish forces at bay and also to send back some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees on its soil.

"In the beginning (Turkey) said 'don't support these groups'," Abdulrahman said, referring to Kurdish elements such as the People's Protection Units (YPG) that helped a US-led coalition combat the Islamic State group.

"Nobody listened. They have been trying to solve this issue now for more than a year with the United States, to create a safe zone to get the threat away from their border."

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Ankara says the YPG is a "terrorist offshoot" of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been waging an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984.

Chaos in areas targeted in the week-long Turkish assault has already led to the escape of around 800 foreign women and children linked to IS from a Kurdish-run camp, according to Kurdish authorities.

"The YPG and (its political arm the) PYD is from a branch of the PKK which is declared a terrorist organisation in the US, EU, Turkey -- everywhere," said Abdulrahman.

"(Turkey) couldn't reach any solution with the US, they couldn't handle this threat until it became explosive for them."

Abdulrahman said PKK leaders had been seen "migrating to Syria to be stationed there on the border" ahead of Ankara's operation.

"We don't see Turkey against the Kurds. Turkey is against a group of people within the Kurds," he said.

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NOVEMBER 5, 2019 / 3:12 AM / A MONTH AGO

Qatar, Turkey to scale up cooperation to a "comprehensive strategic partnership" - Qatar foreign ministry

1 MIN READ



DUBAI, Nov 5 (Reuters) - Qatar and Turkey plan to scale up their cooperation into a “comprehensive strategic partnership”, Qatar’s foreign ministry said on twitter.

The decision was taken at the ministerial meeting of the Qatari-Turkish Higher Strategic Committee held in Doha on Tuesday, it said.

Ankara stood by Doha after Saudi Arabia and other Arab states severed diplomatic, trade and travel ties with Qatar last year,

accusing it of financing terrorism, a charge Doha denies. (Reporting by Maher Chmaytelli; Editing by Alex Richardson)

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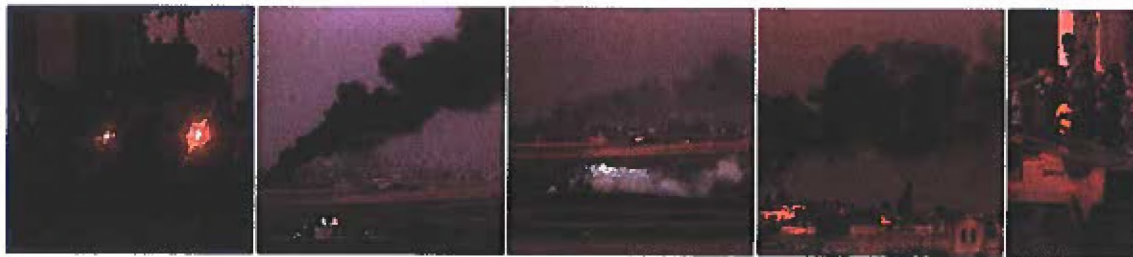
**[N] The
National**

UAE's Gargash joins Arab world in condemning Turkey offensive in Syria

Nato, the UN and European countries condemn the incursion into Syrian
territory



A convoy of Turkish forces vehicles moves through the town of Akcakale, Sanliurfa province, southeastern Turkey, at the border between Turkey and Syria. AP Photo



The National
October 10, 2019

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Anwar Gargash has joined the almost unanimous condemnation from across the Arab world of Turkey as it launched an offensive in Syria on Wednesday evening.

"The broad Arab condemnation of the Turkish aggression against Syria is not surprising," the minister tweeted. "...the international position rejecting the Turkish aggression stems from the foundations of international law and a common realization that this step will complicate the already complicated scene."

State-run Wam news agency ran a statement from the UAE foreign ministry describing the Turkish offensive as "a dangerous development and a blatant and unacceptable aggression against the sovereignty of an Arab state in contravention of the rules of international law."

From across the Gulf region, almost all governments echoed Dr Gargash's comments, with Saudi state TV saying the government was concerned at the developments and condemned the offensive.

Kuwait called the offensive a direct threat to stability and peace in the region and called for restraint while Bahrain called for an emergency meeting of the Arab League in order to find a unified regional position on the aggression as Manama condemned the fighting.

Egypt too called for an Arab League meeting and the body announced shortly after that there would be an emergency summit on Saturday to discuss the Turkish offensive.

Egypt's foreign ministry, in a statement on Wednesday, "condemned in the strongest terms the Turkish aggression on Syrian territory," saying the offensive "represents a blatant and unacceptable attack on the sovereignty of a brotherly Arab state."

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi discussed the Turkish offensive with his Iraqi counterpart Barham Salih in a phone call on Wednesday evening, Egyptian presidency spokesman Bassam Rady said, according to state-run Akhbar Elyom.

"The Turkish aggression ... represents a dangerous development that threatens international peace and security and exacerbates the crisis situation in the region," Mr Rady said.

The Arab League, which groups 22 states including Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, said in a statement on Wednesday that Saturday's meeting would be at the ministerial level "to discuss the Turkish aggression" on Syrian territory.

"It constitutes an unacceptable attack on the sovereignty of an Arab member state of the League," Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Hossam Zaki said.

World governments also reacted with concern on Wednesday after Turkey launched the military offensive on Kurdish forces in northern Syria.

And the UN Security Council plans to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the assault, which Ankara named Operation Peace Spring.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg urged Turkey to show restraint, while acknowledging that Ankara had "legitimate security concerns".

"It's important to avoid actions that may further destabilise the region, escalate tensions and cause more human suffering," Mr Stoltenberg said in Rome.

The UN Security Council's president, South African ambassador Jerry Matthews Matjila, also appealed to Turkey to protect civilians and exercise "maximum restraint".

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday called the incursion into northern Syria a "bad idea".

Mr Trump insisted Washington "does not endorse this attack", despite having withdrawn US troops from the area in what was interpreted as approval for Turkey to assault its chief allies in the war against ISIS.

This week, he said he would "obliterate" Turkey's economy if Ankara went too

far.

The US and the UK also expressed concern over the risk of a humanitarian catastrophe in the region.

In a phone call before the launch of the offensive, Russian President Vladimir Putin urged Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan to "think carefully" before taking any action, "so as not to harm overall efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis".

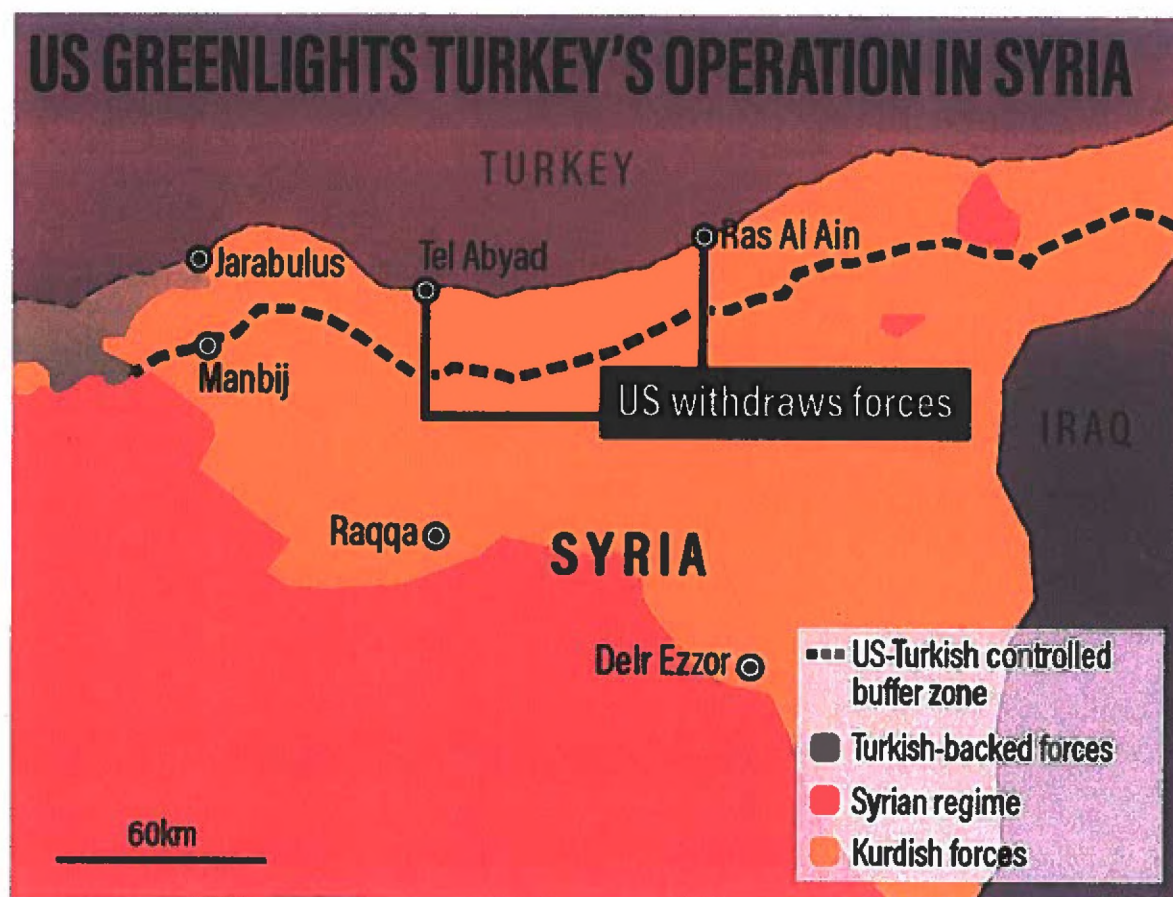
Mr Erdogan told Mr Putin that the offensive "will contribute to Syria's peace and stability and ease the path to a political solution".

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker demanded a halt to the operation, telling Ankara the bloc would not pay for any "safe zone" that might be created.

Mr Juncker told the European Parliament that he recognised Turkey had "security concerns" along the border.

But he warned that the military action would not lead to a "good result", saying a political solution was the only way to end the Syrian conflict.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said: "Turkey is willingly risking further destabilising the region and a resurgence of ISIS."



Turkey's operation in Syria.

"Syria needs stability and a political process. However, the Turkish offensive now threatens to cause a new humanitarian disaster."

Mr Maas said that Berlin would "urge Turkey to end its offensive and to pursue its security interests peacefully".

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said the offensive "must stop".

"It calls into question the security and humanitarian efforts of the coalition against Daesh and risks undermining Europeans' security," Mr Le Drian said in a tweet.

French European Affairs Minister Amelie de Montchalin earlier said France, Germany and Britain were working on a joint declaration that "will be extremely clear on the fact that we very strongly condemn" the Turkish campaign.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab expressed "serious concerns about the military action that Turkey has taken".

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It "risks destabilising the region, exacerbating humanitarian suffering, and undermining the progress made against Daesh, which should be our collective focus", Mr Raab said.

Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok said he had summoned Turkey's ambassador to condemn the assault.

"I call on Turkey not to follow the path it has chosen," Mr Blok, whose country is a member of the coalition against ISIS, said on Twitter.

"No one can benefit from the potentially terrible humanitarian consequences. The operation can trigger new refugee flows and harm the fight against ISIS and stability in the region."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was "deeply concerned that any escalation in the country's north-east could harm an already struggling population".

It said that "the humanitarian space" needed to be preserved.

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QATAR SUPPORTS TURKEY AGAINST U.S. SANCTIONS PLEDGING \$15 BILLION BAILOUT

BY **JASON LEMON** ON 8/15/18 AT 5:18 PM EDT





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Qatar has pledged \$15 billion worth of investment in Turkey in a bid to curb the impact of new U.S. sanctions.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani made the announcement Wednesday, saying the move was his way of standing by "brothers in Turkey," Qatari-owned news network [Al Jazeera reported](#).

The emir's comments followed direct talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara. Al Thani was also the first foreign head of state to visit Turkey since new tensions arose last week with Washington. Both the Turkish and Qatari finance ministers also attended the meeting.

Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani (R), when he was still Qatar's crown prince, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (2nd L), walk past an honor guard during an official welcoming ceremony prior to a meeting at the presidential palace in Ankara, Turkey, on December 19, 2014. Qatar has pledged \$15 billion worth of investment in Turkey in a bid to curb the impact of new U.S. sanctions

ADEM ALTAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Quickly responding to the announcement and other steps Ankara has taken, the lira stabilized on Wednesday, gaining 5 percent to trade around 6 lire to the U.S. dollar, compared with a record low of 7 earlier in the week

"This is part of the Turkish government's strategy to avoid the IMF by finding alternative external support. To be a sustainable stabilizer, funding needs to be larger and reach the central bank," Mohamed A El-Erian, the chief economic adviser at the German insurer Allianz, said, according to Bloomberg.

Experts also pointed to the Turkish Central Bank's move to tighten rules on foreign exchange transactions and currency swaps, which limited the ability of banks to supply lira to international financial organizations.

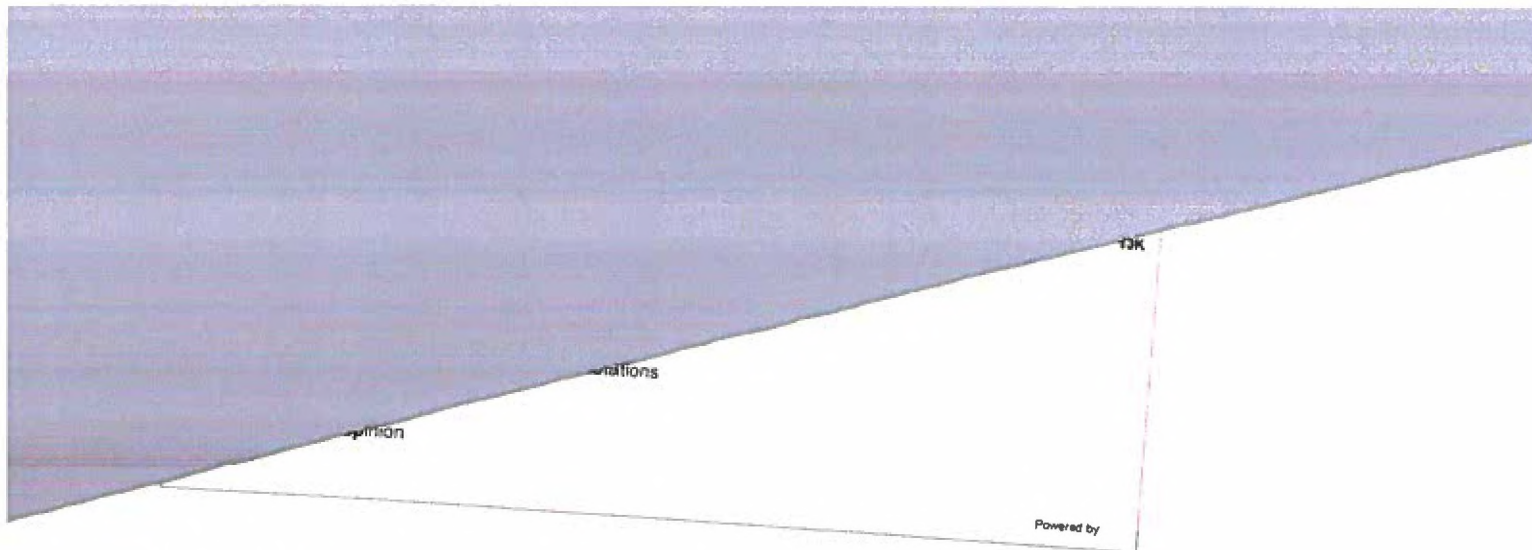
"The limits on shorting the lira taken by Ankara have halted the slide in the currency, which has firmed over 4 percent after its 20 percent decline, easing contagion fears and cooling the threat on financials," Fiona Cincotta of City Index told The Guardian.

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The diplomatic row between Washington and Ankara came about as a result of the detention of American pastor Andrew Brunson. Turkey arrested Brunson following a failed 2016 military coup against Erdogan, accusing the pastor of supporting the movement of U.S.-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom the Turkish government blamed for the coup. The pastor insists he is innocent, however, he could face up to 35 years in prison if convicted in a Turkish court. Trump recently demanded the pastor's release, which Turkey refused. In response, Washington moved to implement punitive sanctions against the country.

Turkish lira banknotes are seen in this picture illustration in Istanbul, Turkey, on August 14
 REUTERS/MURAD SEZER/ILLUSTRATION

Oil-rich Qatar hosts a U.S. military base and has invested heavily in the U.S. economy, recently pledging billions more. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin reportedly told Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani at a dinner in late June. "You have been a great friend to the United States."

Nevertheless, relations between Washington and Qatar have appeared more unstable than previously under the leadership of Trump. After Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic ties with Doha last year, accusing the country of funding terrorism and destabilizing the region, the president tweeted his support of the blockade.

Former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson broke ranks with Trump over the crisis, encouraging a speedy and peaceful resolution. Reports have suggested that Arab leaders then moved to lobby the Trump administration to force Tillerson out. He was then fired by the president in early March.

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